

REMARKS

The present Amendment is being filed in response to the Official Action dated June 22, 2007 placing the present patent application under final rejection. A Request For Continued Examination (RCE), together with the applicable filing fee, is being filed concurrently herewith.

*Interview
Record
OK.
JSM
10/25/07*

On August 29, 2007, the undersigned conducted a telephone interview with Examiner MacArthur, and inquired if the Examiner would consider revised Claim 1, as presented herein, in response to the Final Action. The Examiner stated that he would not consider the revised claim on the grounds that it would raise new issues requiring further search or consideration by the Patent & Trademark Office. Accordingly, Applicant has filed a Request For Continued Examination (RCE) to permit the Examiner to consider the revised claim on the merits, notwithstanding the final action.

Starting at the last paragraph of page 3 of the Official Action dated June 22, 2007, the Examiner states that the Amendment filed by Applicant on April 23, 2007 presents arguments in support of the allowance of Claim 1, which are based upon functional features which are not expressly recited in the claim. In response to the Examiner's comments, independent Claim 1 has